Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2021

Dr. Anthony Fauci
Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
5601 Fishers Lane, MSC 9806
Bethesda, M.D. 20892

Dear Dr. Fauci:

House Republicans remain concerned about the origins of COVID-19, including the increasing possibility it originated and subsequently leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) in China.

At a 2012 conference entitled "Gain-of-Function Research on HPA1 H5N1 Viruses," you said, "[w]hat historically investigators have done is to actually create gain-of-function by making mutations, passage adoption, or other genetic techniques, such as ***reverse genetics***."[1]

In 2014, you, through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth) a grant entitled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."[2] This grant allowed EcoHealth to "[t]est predictions of [coronavirus]…transmission…using ***reverse genetics***…"[3] Funds from this grant were subsequently awarded to the WIV.[4] Using your own definition, it appears the NIH funded gain-of-function research at the WIV.

On May 11, 2021, while testifying under oath, you stated, "[t]he NIH has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the [WIV]."[5] This appears to contradict your 2012 statement regarding gain-of-function research and the WIV.

Can you please confirm the authenticity of the 2012 video accessible on the YouTube platform? Further, please verify that the 2014 grant description is accurate and explain the apparent discrepancy in your recent testimony?

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[1] *Gain-of-Function Research on HPAI H%N1 Viruses: Welcome and Introductory Remarks,* YouTube (Mar. 20, 2013), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BACqqgRpktA&t=1257s *(emphasis added).*

[2] Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence, R01AI110964 (last accessed June 7, 2021), https://reporter.nih.gov/search/PbfOIYYqDU28xKp7OMp5vg/project-details/8674931.

[3] *Id (emphasis added).*

[4] *Id.*

[5] Zachary Basu, *Fauci and Rand Paul clash over NIH funding for Wuhan Institute of Virology,* Axios (Mar. 11, 2021), https://www.axios.com/fauci-rand-paul-wuhan-lab-coronavirus-eff1bb08-f6c7-4d63-b170-c49e87c2e3dd.html.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

James Comer Ranking Member Committee on Oversight and Reform	Jim Jordan Ranking Member Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary